

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019

S E C R E T TOKYO 1979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: JFAP MISAWA PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 023921

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA ON FEBRUARY 13 TO CONVEY OUR RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSAL CONCERNING JFAP MISAWA PROJECTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL AMBASSADOR STATED THAT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT WE COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROPOSAL. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED OUR CONCERN FOR IMPLICATIONS OF GOJ RELUCTANCE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON JFAP AGREEMENT FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE BASE CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMS AND FOR OUR OVERALL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. HE STRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO SEEK SOME RESOLUTION TO PROBLEM RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT INSISTED THAT MUST BE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENT REACHED IN JOINT COMMITTEE.

2. AMBASSADOR SOUGHT TO PROBE DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEMS FORESEEN BY MIYAZAWA AND SUGGESTED THAT THERE MAY BE ASPECTS WHICH NOT YET UNDERSTOOD BY U.S. SIDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT AS TO IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO BEING ABLE TO MAKE P-3 MOVE TO MISAWA AS CONTEMPLATED. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY MAY EXIST ON OUR SIDE WITH RESPECT TO TIMING AND CONDITIONS OF THIS MOVE.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER VOLUNTEERED NO FURTHER COMMENTS ON NATURE OF PROBLEM HE ANTICIPATES. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIS PROPOSAL BY AMBASSADOR AND USG. HE STATED THAT HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY OUR RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH HE HAD HOPED THAT "YOU COULD FIND SOME INGENIOUS WAY TO GET US OFF THE HOOK". UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, FOREIGN OFFICE WILL NOW HAVE TO ENDEAVOR TO DEVELOP SOME OTHER SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR OFFERED, AND MIYAZAWA READILY ACCEPTED, SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES TO MEET TO CONSIDER PROBLEM IN DETAIL AND TRY TO DEVISE SOME SOLUTION. IN CONCLUSION, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID "BALL IS NOW IN OUR COURT AND WE WILL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE."

HODGSON

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NNN

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